

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

March 26, 2015

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Motorists Reminded to Pay Attention... Or Pay the Price!

by Linda Wilson-Horn

National Work Zone Awareness Week kicked off with a news conference in Jefferson City Monday, March 23. MoDOT Central District Engineer Dave Silvester hosted the event including remarks from MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, State Representative Mike Bernskoetter, State Highway Patrol Captain John Hotz and Associated General Contractors of Missouri President Len Toenjes.

Work Zone Awareness Week alerts drivers that highway construction is gearing up and work zones will be cropping up on our highways. But work zones can be slow moving operations like striping roadways, patching potholes and mowing roadsides.

“Our message is simple. Don’t do anything that distracts you from the task at hand or it could mean the difference between a safe trip and a deadly one,” said Hassinger. “Consider this. The average text takes five seconds to read. Traveling at 55 mph, you’ll travel more than the length of a football field without looking at the road.”

Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Campbell from the Jefferson City maintenance facility told his personal story of being struck in a work zone.

In spring 2014, Campbell was driving one of the truck mounted attenuator trucks at the back of a line of vehicles striping Route 50. A motorist approached the work zone and hit the back of Campbell’s TMA at full highway speed. The attenuator did its job and both Campbell and the driver walked away from the incident. The motorist’s vehicle was totaled.



State Highway Patrol Captain John Hotz reminds motorists to slow down and pay attention in work zones or they could be stopped by an officer. Other speakers at the work zone awareness kickoff included (from left) MoDOT Central District Engineer Dave Silvester, MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, Associated General Contractors of Missouri President Len Toenjes, State Representative Mike Bernskoetter, and Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Campbell.



MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Campbell discuss work zone safety issues at the work zone awareness kickoff in Jefferson City.

“If I have anything to say to drivers, I want to remind them to pay attention when encountering our work zones. Distracted driving is one of the greatest hazards on my job,” said Campbell. “Whether it’s a sandwich, a cell phone, a text, a book, a tablet, a laptop or whatever, distracted driving could get me hurt some day. Just like drivers, we all have family and friends to go home to. If we all do our part, we can all arrive alive.”

The number of incidents with motorists striking MoDOT vehicles is increasing. From 2013 to 2014, the number more than doubled from seven crashes in 2013 to 19 in 2014. For more information on work zone awareness, visit www.modot.org/workzones.

Read an interview with MoDOT’s own Barrell Bob on the [Central Office](#) page of Connections to get his views on work zone safety. All district pages are also featuring work zone articles in this edition.



View from the Chair

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

by Stephen R. Miller
Missouri Highways and Transportation Chairman

Deferring Maintenance Speeds Decay and Drives Up Cost

"You can pay me now, or pay me later" was how an auto mechanic explained to his customer in an old commercial that he could (1) pay to replace the oil and filter now, or (2) pay a far larger sum for the replacement of the vehicle's engine later.

That's exactly the spot in which we find ourselves with Missouri's roads and bridges. But unfortunately, with insufficient revenue sources, we have no choice but to prioritize where we make our capital investments and that means we are putting off maintenance and other improvements on the remainder of the system that will cost much more down the road.

At a \$325 million level of investment, which is all that will be available starting in 2017, MoDOT will be forced to focus its limited funding on taking care of the approximately 8,000 miles of primary roads and bridges that are most critical to Missouri's needs. While we'll be able to keep our primary system in good condition, taking care of the supplementary roads – some 26,000 miles – is another story.

Although you may have heard this story before, what you probably don't realize is that the deterioration in those 26,000 miles of roads and bridges will not occur on a straight-line basis; it will increase geometrically. MoDOT maintains a regular maintenance schedule on its statewide system that attempts to catch small problems that can be fixed relatively inexpensively before they become much larger and more costly issues. [Read More](#).

Agricultural Leader Joins State Highways and Transportation Commission

Gov. Jay Nixon nominated Michael Thomas (Tom) Waters, of Orrick, to serve on the State Highways and Transportation Commission. The commission works to preserve, enhance, and support the state's transportation system; it also makes and tracks transportation policy and has authority over all state transportation programs and facilities, as provided by law, including bridges, highways, aviation, railroads, public transportation, ports, and waterborne commerce.

Waters, a Republican, is a seventh-generation Missouri farmer who produces corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa. He also serves as chairman of the Missouri Levee & Drainage District Association, where he represents levee and drainage districts, businesses and others who have an interest in activities surrounding the Missouri River and its tributaries. Waters is a past president of the Missouri-Arkansas River Basins Association.

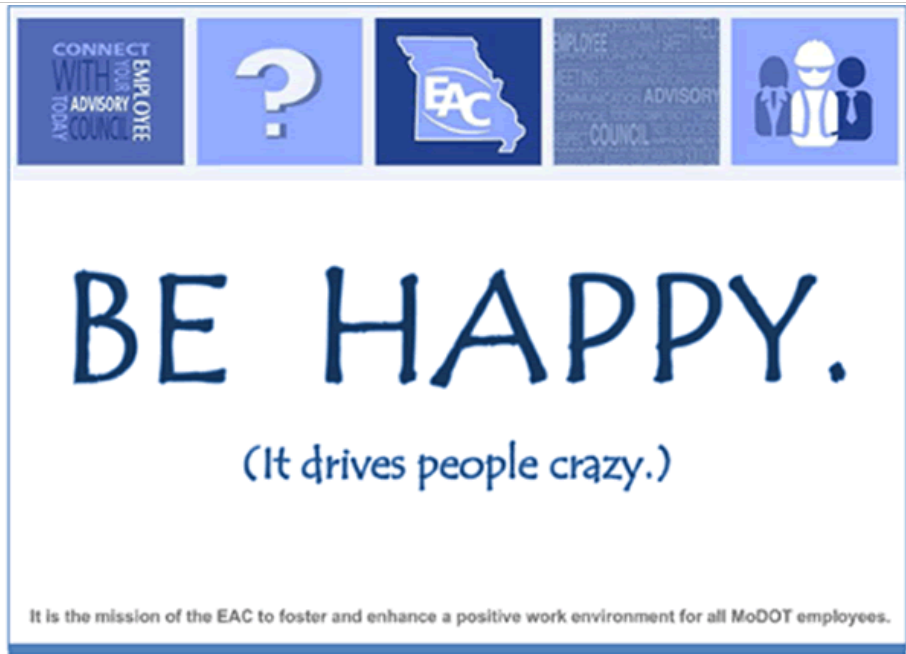
In 2011, he was named as Agricultural Leader of the Year by the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow, and he has testified before Congress on agricultural matters and other topics. Waters holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Missouri and is a graduate of the Executive Program for Agricultural Producers at Texas A&M University.

"Missouri agriculture is a primary user of our state's transportation system, and Tom Waters has a strong record of leadership in both agriculture and Missouri River issues on the state and national levels," Gov. Nixon said. "I am pleased we can put his commitment, experience and knowledge to use on the Highways and Transportation Commission as we address Missouri's near- and long-term transportation challenges and opportunities."

The Governor has nominated Waters for a term ending March 1, 2021.



New Commissioner Michael Thomas Waters has a strong record of leadership in both agriculture and Missouri River issues.



Total Compensation Team Update

Everyone,

Here is the latest update concerning the Total Compensation Team:

During this process, the gathering of employee feedback and comments has been the most important task for our team. In order to make suggestions to senior management and the Commission related to improving MoDOT's total compensation, our team needed to ensure that we are truly speaking on the behalf of MoDOT employees. Although we continue to receive additional comments, here is a summary of employee participation:

- Over 100 employees volunteered to serve on the Total Compensation Team.
- Nearly 1,700 documents were received related to employee feedback. A large number of work groups had discussions and sent in a single form for the entire group. We estimate the feedback we received represents about 2,000 employees.
- Sub-team members also had many face-to-face discussions with employees who did not feel comfortable sending in written feedback. These conversations represented about 350 employees.



Therefore, we are comfortable stating that nearly 50 percent of employees participated in our request for feedback. This is an amazing number.

During the past few weeks, our team leaders have been reading through every feedback form that was submitted. Although this was a tedious task, it was necessary to categorize the main issues employees expressed related to total compensation. The results are very clear – pay and salary are the ultimate concerns that employees expressed.

As our team works to develop suggestions for senior management and the Commission related to improving MoDOT's total compensation, we will continue to discuss other topics mentioned in the feedback. However, our primary focus will be related to suggestions for improving MoDOT's salary structure.

On behalf of the Total Compensation Team and all of our sub-team members, thank you for taking the time to send us your comments. We will continue to send updates when available.

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MoDOT Director Testifies Before Congress

by Holly Dentner

On Tuesday, March 24, MoDOT Director Dave Nichols appeared before a Senate Committee in Washington, DC to testify on behalf of MoDOT and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) regarding performance management.

Nichols' primary focus was Missouri's and other states' efforts to measure performance and the impact it has on transportation departments. With Tracker, Missouri's quarterly performance management report, Nichols reported that MoDOT has spent the last 10 years within a performance-based culture.



MoDOT Director Dave Nichols appeared before a Senate Committee in Washington, DC to testify on performance management.

“MoDOT has used its performance management system to create a results-focused culture among its employees,” said Nichols during the testimony. “Performance goals and results may change over time, but I’m confident our system will remain tightly woven into MoDOT’s organizational fabric.”

Like MoDOT, state departments of transportation across the country are already implementing performance management concepts. Nichols testified that all states have implemented some aspect of performance management. Colorado, North Carolina, Utah, Minnesota, and Maryland have created programs to manage their physical assets and focus on the principles of transportation asset management as opposed to a “worst-first” approach. Many other states have well-known performance management programs that go far beyond the management of physical assets.

Nichols also discussed the challenges of implementing national performance management requirements. There is a cost to implementation, and those are funds that would be directed away from critical projects and programs. There is also difficulty in “minimum condition” requirements for conditions, when funding is so uncertain. A third challenge is target setting. With so many variables from state to state – funding levels, environmental conditions, population growth trends, legislative and gubernatorial priorities, it may be difficult to establish appropriate targets that take into account each state’s unique situation.

Nichols was one of four speakers to testify during the hearing. He concluded his remarks and took questions from the committee members, all of whom recognized the challenges and successes for the nation’s transportation departments.

Transportation Engineers Association of Missouri (TEAM) Holds Annual Conference in St. Louis

by Kelly Jackson

Over 500 professionals from across the state gathered in St. Louis on March 11-13 for the annual TEAM Conference. The conference provided a great opportunity for attendees to collaborate with other industry professionals and learn new best practices.

“We have always tried to make sure TEAM is a great value for attendees,” said TEAM Secretary Brandon Campbell. “The partnerships we have formed with our sponsors allow us to offer the program at a low cost, with 15 hours of meaningful technical content each year.”

Optional workshops and tours were offered the first day of the conference. In house workshops included such topics as ADA Accessible Routes and Programming 101: The Basics of Programming a Project.

For those that chose to don their walking shoes, various city tours were offered to take a look at some of St. Louis’ finest ongoing projects, and behind-the-scene tours of the city’s busiest transportation modes. Some of the tours offered were of the new Daniel Boone Bridge (I-64 over the Missouri River), America’s Central Port, Lambert Airport, and the City Arch River project.



The next two days were full of breakout sessions on various topics, projects and themes ranging from safety developments, design, construction and management.

Two well-known speakers were on hand for the general sessions. Michael Marasa of Hayward Baker Geotechnical Construction gave an eye opening presentation on The Investigation and Treatment of a Swallowette, covering the disastrous sinkhole that nearly swallowed the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY last year. Dr. George Connor of Missouri State University also gave a very thought provoking presentation titled Coloring within the State Lines: The Political History and Culture of Missouri, highlighting past, present and possible future trends of Missouri.

The conference ended with MoDOT's Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger addressing the crowd on the tough choices ahead that Missouri is facing with funding. He reminded all that this is not a MoDOT problem, but rather it's a Missouri problem, and encouraged them to better educate themselves and others on the funding issues that Missouri faces.

If you missed this year's conference, please be sure to plan to attend in St. Louis next March. Additional conference information can be found at www.teamconference.org.

Fatality Update



What's Happening



Where Innovating is the Order of the Day

MoDOT's Innovations Challenge program was chosen as the cover story for the most recent edition of the Federal Highway Administration's Innovator newsletter.

The Innovations Challenge is designed to identify and share the best department innovations in the areas of tools and equipment, products and productivity.
[Read Article.](#)



Walking for Wellness

Join us for the American Heart Association's voluntary walking challenge! Walking is a form of aerobic exercise and is one of the easiest ways to increase your physical activity and improve your health. The walking program is from April 6 to June 29.

You must be registered by April 6 to be eligible to enter a drawing for a Fitbit® Flex™ activity tracker. The first 250 employees to register will receive a pedometer.

For more information and registration details click here – [Walking for Wellness.](#)



Archaeology Webpage

MoDOT began conducting archaeological investigations in 2013 for proposed highway improvements in downtown St. Louis. The web summary of the work at the Madam Haycraft and Louis Beaudoin sites is now online - [Poplar Street Bridge](#).

Fieldwork on the archaeological investigations is expected to continue in April with additional work scheduled for summer and fall.



AASHTO Study Evaluates How DOTs Communicate Environmental Benefits of Transportation

A report analyzing how state transportation agencies communicate the environmental benefits of transportation and how those communications could be improved has been issued by the Center for Environmental Excellence by AASHTO.

The report, *Benefits of Transportation: Telling America's Transportation and Environment Story*, was developed in part through an analysis of state DOT posts on social media and found that communications about environmental benefits can and should be increased, with the emphasis on improved quality of life.

"There are opportunities to advance the good work being done at DOTs by broadening the reach and frequency of environment-related messages," the report said. [Read Report.](#)

Retirements

Kevin N. Teeter – NW – 23 years
Doug E. Wendling – NE – 29 years
Kurt A. Spindler – NE – 41 years
Stephen R. Porter - KC - 16 years
Warren F. Roberts - KC - 30 years
John N. Oehring - CD - 22 years

William R. Abbott - CD - 23 years
Betty L. Shadwick - CD - 26 years
Jimmie G. Chastain - SW - 29 years
Kenneth R. Layman - SW - 31 years
James L. Conley - SW - 31 years

Rowland K. Harmon - SW - 32 years
Lawrence J. Schumer - SE - 41 years
Tim L. Beavers - SE - 26 years
Steven A. Billings - CO - 13 years
Leanna DePue - CO - 9 years

In Memoriam

Steve Windle – active employee
Kansas City District – March 18
Darrel VanNess
former D8 – February 18
Jackie Lignons
former D3 – February 19
Carrol Simmons
former D3 – March 1
David Arndt
former D2 – March 2

Oscar Radar
former D9 – March 5
Charles Hopkins
former D10 – March 5
David Erwin
former D3 – March 5
Leroy Stolberg
former D3 – March 7
William Diersing
CO – March 8

George Arnold
former D8 – March 9
Kelley Grantham
former D10 – March 10
Melvin Monroe, Sr.
former D3 – March 10
Donald Fischer
former D6 – March 11
Lyle Thompson
former D7 – March 15

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

Comments & Suggestions

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Interview With a Work Zone Icon

by Patrick Wood

MoDOT’s Barrel Bob is one busy spokesbarrel. He can be seen across the state in work zones to help bring awareness for safety and remind drivers to slow down and move over in work zones. Not only is he out there smiling at people as they pass by on Missouri roads, he’s on Facebook and on the radio! Barrel Bob has a pretty hectic schedule this week helping the MoDOT districts promote Work Zone Awareness Week. One minute he is in Central District and the next he is in Kansas City. It is almost like there is more than one of him!

I had the opportunity to briefly sit down with Bob after his appearance at Central Office and Central District’s Work Zone Awareness press event and ask him a few questions.

You are everywhere right now. You’re out there on Missouri roads, you are at the district work zone events, you can be heard on the radio talking about work zone safety and you are on Facebook.
I know. I am pretty much a barrel version of Ryan Seacrest!

How important is it to you to make sure people understand the importance of work zone safety?
Are you being serious right now? That is like asking Batman how important is it to stop crime in Gotham, or Brian Williams how important it is to remember things correctly. It is VERY important. It is the top priority of MoDOT to ensure that employees and motorists are both safe in work zones so everyone can go home safe. It is important to me, and all my pals at MoDOT, that my highway heroes have a safe work environment. Not all work zones are the same and I am happy that is something we are trying to make the public aware of. Some work zones are slow moving operations such as striping, patching or mowing. They can also be short term temporary lane closures. No matter what kind of work zone it is motorists need to slow down and change lanes, it’s the law.



What did you think of the message that Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Campbell gave today about his experience in a work zone crash involving a truck mounted attenuator?
I thought Scott did an amazing job talking about the importance of paying attention in work zones. Crashes just like the one Scott was in are completely avoidable if everyone is on their A-game while driving.

You’ve been hit yourself a few times if what I’ve read is true.
I’ve been knocked on my barrels a few times! I would tell you about them all but we don’t have that kind of time and I am saving those for my autobiography “Tall, Orange and Handsome.” I’m still working on the title but it will definitely have an orange cover.

This year’s Work Zone Awareness Week slogan is “pay attention or pay the price.” Do you feel like people are paying less attention these days while driving?
I constantly see people zooming by while on their cell phones. Just because it only takes a couple of seconds to read makes it seem ok, but it’s not. The average text takes five seconds to read. If you are going 55 mph, it’s like traveling the length of a football field blindfolded! There is a good chance you won’t see my highway heroes out doing their jobs before you run into that work zone. So put the phone down, pay attention and stop driving like you are the star of one of those scary movies!

What scary movies?
Those Fast and Furious movies! If Vin Diesel drives in one of my work zones he better be going the posted speed limit with a positive attitude!

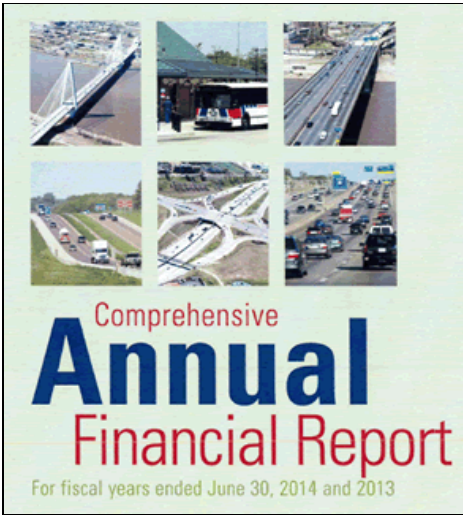
You have said multiple times on your Facebook page that Work Zone Awareness Week is your favorite week of the year, but you also get pretty excited about State Fair.
I love the State Fair too! It is another opportunity to help raise awareness for the importance of work zone safety! And there are corn dogs....mmmmm corndogs. Hope to see all your readers there August 13-23 in the Highway Gardens.

Thank you for taking a minute to speak with me today.
You bet! Don’t forget to follow me on Facebook! I’m off to snap a selfie with Baby Bob out at the Columbia Mall!

Wait a second! Isn’t Baby Bob you at a younger age? How can you both be in the same place at once?
It’s a classic time traveling story. Time traveling work zone spokesbarrel goes back in time to recruit himself in his prime to tell the future about work zone safety. It’s a pretty common thing.

MoDOT Recognized for Annual Financial Report

by Holly Dentner



For the seventh time, MoDOT has received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting.

The award was for financial reporting for the Missouri Transportation Finance Corporation (MTFC) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The certificate of achievement was presented by the Government Finance Officers Association and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

According to the news release issued by the association, the certificate “represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.”

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a construction spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The 2014 CAFR is available for review - [Annual Report](#).

Transit Association Visits the Capitol



Approximately 200 members of the Missouri Public Transit Association visited the State Capitol on March 17 to discuss statewide transit issues with legislators. MoDOT Multimodal Director Michelle Teel, far right, and MoDOT Administrator of Transit Dion Knipp, far left, participated in the discussions with OATS President Dorothy Yeager and OATS board members Dottie Littlejohn and Nancy Sipes.

Ice Aged Team Makes a Jailbreak for Charity!

The annual Polar Bear Strut and Plunge was held at the Lake of the Ozarks on Feb. 28. Employees from Transportation Planning, Information System and Traffic and Highway Safety participated in the event.

For the fifth year in a row, the Ice Aged plungers and their supporters made a generous contribution to Missouri's Special Olympics. The team raised \$2,587 for plunging into the frigid 37 degree water.

The 5K Strutters also raised \$250 for the charity and took home top honors. Anup Choudhury won gold and Brian Reagan took silver in the male walker category. Anna Carey won gold and Damon Eliuk won bronze in the female and male 20-29 runner categories.



Plungers - left to right: Anna Carey and Josh Carey, GIS specialists, Machelles Watkins, director of transportation planning, Scott Nichols, intermediate transportation planner, Brian Reagan, transportation system analysis engineer, Damon Eliuk, transportation planner, Megan Denkler, TMS administrator, Morgan Koetting, Shelby Koetting and Anup Choudhury, intermediate information systems technologists. Not pictured: Bev Koetting, senior planning technician, Drew Williford, senior traffic studies specialist.



Strutters - left to right: Anup Choudhury, Damon Eliuk, Brian Reagan, Anna Carey and Josh Carey.

March is Nutrition Month

Load Up on Fruits and Vegetables

More and more, we hear about the value of eating fruits and vegetables. They give you the vitamins, minerals and fiber that you need for better health. They can keep you full while not adding too many calories to your daily diet. To live your best life, you need the right nourishment. Even if you're not overweight, proper eating habits are key to good health.

There is so much advice available, but



Nourish is a digital coaching program that starts by analyzing your daily food intake. You have a short online consultation that asks about your diet – grains, fruits, vegetables, protein, calcium, fats, sweets and oils. Nourish also considers your readiness to change, eating habits, preferences, allergies and lifestyles. Questions are included about your health history and activity levels as well.

Learn more by reading the attached flier – [March Wellness Newsletter](#).

how do we know what’s best? That’s where Nourish nutrition management comes in. Part of Coventry WellBeingsm,

Central Office Happenings



MEE Zone Events Video Library

The Mee Zone is building a video library for employees by recording Mee Zone events. The first two videos added to the library are: Sleep Deprivation and From Tiny Seeds.

You can access the videos by visiting the Human Resources Employee Development page and clicking on the video library link. Event handouts are also available on the site - [MEE Zone Videos](#).

MEE Zone Blog Subscribe Button

Don’t forget, the MEE Zone blog now has a subscribe button. Just click the subscribe button on the MEE Zone blog SharePoint page and receive an email every time a new blog is added - <http://sharepoint/facilitation/HR/blogs/default.aspx>.

For help or questions contact Amanda Henley Amanda.Henley@modot.mo.gov or 573-526-5617.

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Work Zone Awareness Week 2015

A media event for Work Zone Awareness Week in the Northwest District was held Tuesday, March 24 at the district office in St. Joseph. A truck mounted attenuator (TMA) was brought in by members of our roadside crew. Members of the media had a chance to view the TMA, discuss the benefits of TMAs with those who ride in them daily, and interview both workers and Northwest District Engineer Don Wichern. Due to the cold, rainy weather, the event was moved inside the district garage.



The theme for Work Zone Awareness Week 2015, Pay Attention or Pay the Price, is on a banner directly outside the district office in St. Joseph.



Barrel Bob alerts workers to pay attention at a work zone on U.S. Hwy 36 at the Platte River Bridge. Crossovers are being built for bridge projects later this construction season.



Maintenance Crew Leader Dave Yarnell readies for his interview with the media during Work Zone Awareness Week. One of the roadside crew's truck mounted attenuators was the featured backdrop for the interview.



Maintenance Crew Leader Dave Yarnell speaks with the local ABC affiliate station about the dangers of working in active work zones and how truck mounted attenuators can help save lives of both workers and motorists.

Sidewalk Project Continues

Retail growth along Loop 29 in northern St. Joseph has skyrocketed in the past several years bringing shoppers and diners to the string of shops and chain restaurants that have sprung up where once there was only farmland. The increase in foot traffic has brought to light the lack of sidewalks along this stretch of roadway that's commonly referred to as the Belt Highway. While many of the new developments have built sidewalks as part of their construction, the older

establishments do not have sidewalks, leaving many gaps for pedestrians. Federal enhancement funds are being used to fill in these gaps as well as bring ADA and intersection improvements to the area. The grading and dirt work has been going on for a while and sidewalks will soon connect these businesses making walking much safer for consumers and for the employees of this fast-growing area.



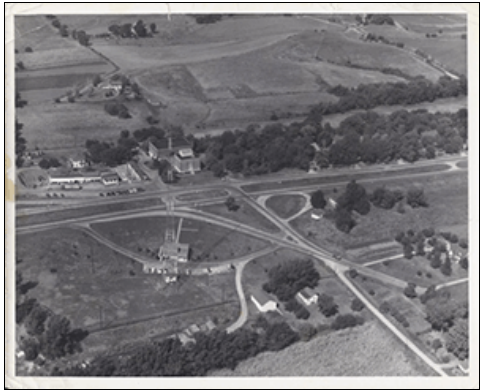
Grading continues for the sidewalk project along the Belt Highway in Buchanan County.



Across the street from the district office, a contractor moves dirt along the roadside in preparation for the installation of sidewalks.

My How Things Have Changed

Senior Right of Way Specialist Barry Booth shared the photo below left that he saw on Facebook of our district office and the surrounding area in 1945. The district office, without the addition that was put on much later, is shown almost in the center of the photograph at the end of the long line of trees. The building in the foreground of the photos along curved roadway is the Highway Patrol building. Compare the photo on the left with the one on the right, taken from Google Earth in 2015. The MoDOT building and the Highway Patrol building are in relatively the same locations in both photographs.



This aerial photo shows the location of the district office in 1945. The office is just to the left of center in the photograph.



This image from Google Earth shows the same location in 2015. The district office facilities and property and the Highway Patrol facilities have both expanded, as has the retail shopping surrounding both offices.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Watching Out For Each Other



Crews work with emergency responders and law enforcement to clean up after a crash in a work zone on Route NN in Clark County. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Thankfully, Linley saw him coming at them quickly. About 60 feet before impact, Linley yelled at the top of his lungs at Kolt, who saw what was happening and without a second to spare, jumped into the ditch.

"If that truck would have been on, I don't know if they would have heard the pickup approaching," said Maintenance Superintendent Ferdie Dames.

Dames prays for the safety of his crews every morning; he has openly shared this at his employee meetings. "I don't even want to think about what could have happened if just one thing would have been different at that time," Dames said. "The man's truck was totaled, but thankfully, no one was hurt in the incident."

Linley and Kolt were pretty shaken up after the incident, as were their fellow crew members. To ensure the safety of our ourselves and those around us, we always have to be ready for the unexpected. "We are just so grateful they were watching out for each other and did what they were trained to do," Dames added.

Route NN in Clark County is a two-lane rural road with long site distance. It's flat. It's straight. It has low traffic volume.

One sunny, clear day, the unexpected happened. The MoDOT truck in the work zone had its lights and strobes on. Veteran crew worker Linley Lipper had shut off the loud diesel truck so he could listen to a radio program while he and Kolt Kiger were pothole patching along the road.

The man driving the pickup was going fishing, probably like he had done for many of his 80 years of life. He had his seat belt on and was driving about 55 mph. He just didn't see the work zone, plain and simple.

Working Towards Zero Fatalities

In 2014, there were no fatalities on the roads in Scotland, Schuyler, Knox and Shelby Counties in the Northeast region.

"We took this as an opportunity to recognize each county and the partners of the Coalition for their efforts and help bring awareness that they are making a difference in lives of those who travel Missouri roads," said Marisa Ellison, Facilitator for the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Safety partners, including Sgt. Brent Bernhardt with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, made a brief presentation to the commissioners in each county.

Other partners include the area health departments, hospitals, schools and sheriff's department. The commissioners were also presented with a poster to display in the courthouse, along with some Coke Zero and Zero candy bars to symbolize zero fatalities.



Pictured above are the individuals present for the Shelby County presentation. Shelby County has actually had zero fatalities the last three years.

“We have so many individuals in these counties working together on the effort of reducing fatalities,” said Ellison. “This effort is enhanced by the motorists that make the decision to put on their seat belts every time they get in the vehicle,” she added.

While “zero” is a good thing to celebrate in this case, the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety and its partners recognize there are many counties throughout northeast Missouri who weren't as fortunate.

“While we had four counties in northeast Missouri who had zero road fatalities in 2014, our goal is to have zero fatalities on all roads not only in our area, but throughout the state,” explained Ellison.

Since the formation of the statewide Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, Missouri fatalities have been reduced to nearly half.

“We started in 2006 with more than 1200 and we’re down to below 750, which isn’t enough,” Ellison stated. “We need to continue to work toward zero, and we appreciate all those who take safe driving seriously,” she added.

Around the District...



Barrel Bob is seen here proudly standing at the entrance of the Hannibal District Office along U.S. 61 to alert motorists of the importance of paying attention in work zones.



Jeff Gander, resident engineer, was interviewed by KTVO television on Work Zone Awareness. KTVO staff also helped raise awareness by wearing orange on Monday, March 23.



Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager, sat down with New Cambria maintenance to talk about Tough Choices Ahead.



On March 17, Ed Hassinger visited the Capitol to speak to the Kirksville Leadership Institute. The group is organized by the Kirksville Chamber.



Pictured above is the Kirksville Leadership Institute (KLI) group, along with Rep. Nate Walker, that visited the Capitol March 17. Marisa Christy-Kerns, customer relations, is a member of the group (she is pictured third from the right).

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Big Truck Night Kicks Off Work Zone Awareness Week in Kansas City

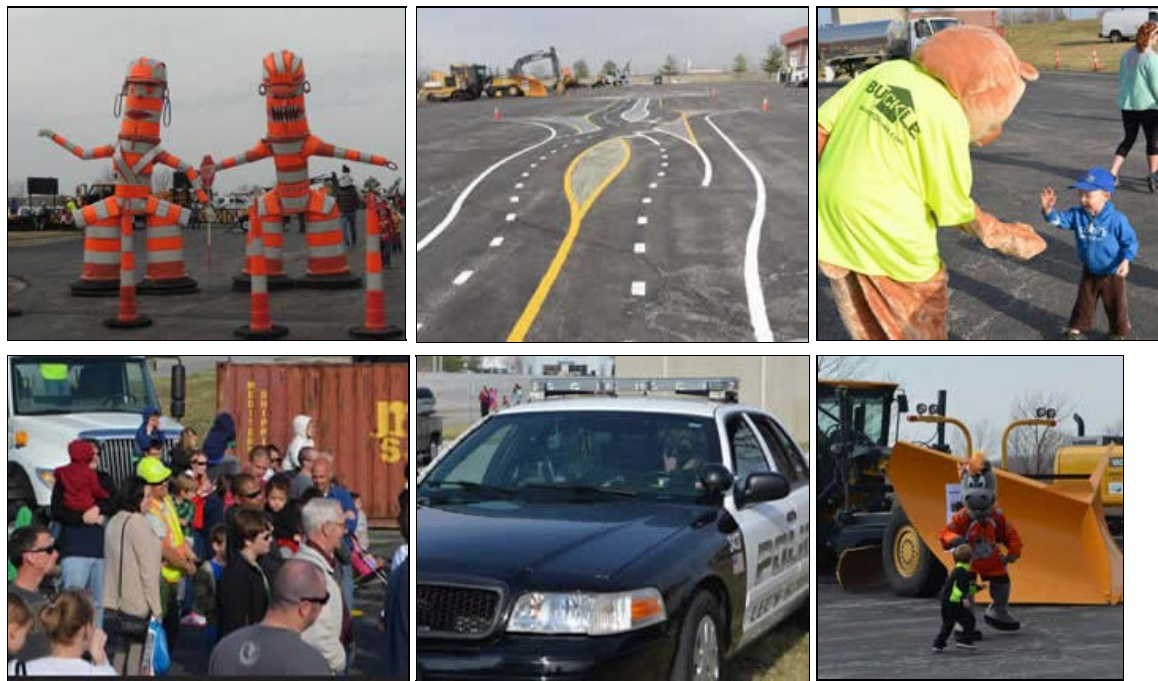
Hundreds of visitors turned out again for MoDOT’s Kansas City District’s annual Big Truck Night held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, March 23, at the MoDOT district office in Lee’s Summit. Big Truck Night helped kick off national Work Zone Awareness Week March 23-29, when motorists can expect to start seeing crews and trucks on the highways repairing and maintaining the thousands of miles in the nine-county Kansas City Region.

Adults and children were able to get a close-up look at MoDOT’s big equipment that’s used every day to repair and stripe roads, clear snow and to learn more about everything MoDOT and its partners do to keep travelers safe on the roads. Kids were also able to try driving tricycles through their own version of a “divergeabout” -- a diverging diamond that leads directly into a roundabout -- painted on the lot.

Visitors also saw demonstrations by the Lee’s Summit Police Bomb Squad and K-9 Unit, MoDOT’s remote mower, the Highway Patrol’s seat belt convincer, and equipment from the Lee’s Summit Fire Department, the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department, the D.A.R.E. car and more. Some of the other area partners joining in for the evening included MADD, Parents as Teachers, Truman Medical Center, and ThinkFirst.

Something new this year was a scavenger hunt with questions about MoDOT activities. Concessions were available, along with activities for young children and music. Visitors met Cheez the mascot from the Missouri Mavericks, Buckle Bear and Barrel Bob and Barrel Betty (MoDOT’s work zone safety ambassadors) all in the hopes of staying safer in work zones.

See all the photos on [MoDOT Kansas City's flickr site](#).





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Campbell Recalls Crash in WZAW Video

When motorists refuse to pay attention on the roadway, especially in work zones, too often they pay a high price because of a crash. This price might be paid in the form of property damage, or worse an injury or fatality.

Jefferson City Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Campbell experienced a crash first hand as a driver in a slow-moving mobile work zone last spring. He tells his crash story in a brief video designed to ask motorists to pay attention and avoid distracted driving. The video can be found at the right or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/PEprYuuDVUA>.



Campbell was driving the last truck in a striping train traveling eastbound on Route 50 just outside of Jefferson City, when the incident occurred in April of 2014. A motorist drove around the early warning truck and did not pay attention to the striping trucks in the slow-moving work zone. The driver did not reduce speed and struck Campbell’s striping truck from behind.

“With the early warning truck and the flashing lights, I don’t know why he didn’t see me,” Campbell said. “I saw him coming up pretty fast. I looked ahead and then I heard screeching tires behind me. That’s when I knew I was in trouble.”

Fortunately, Campbell’s vehicle was equipped with a truck mounted attenuator (TMA), a device designed to reduce the impact of a rear-end crash. As a result, both Campbell and the other driver were not seriously injured in the crash.

“If he hadn’t hit me just right and if that TMA wasn’t on the truck, it could have been really bad,” said Campbell. “We were both very lucky.”

“Sadly, too many of our employees can tell crash stories similar to the one Scott has shared,” said MoDOT Central District Engineer David Silvester. “Scott was very fortunate that he can tell the tale, but we’d like to be able to ensure that our workers never have to experience another crash due to distracted driving.”

It’s not just MoDOT workers who are at risk due to distracted driving in work zones. Between 2010 and 2014, 53 people were killed and 3,347 people were injured in Missouri work zones. The top five contributing circumstances for work zone crashes in 2014 were following too closely, inattention, improper lane use or changing lanes, failure to yield, and driving too fast for conditions – in that order.

Campbell hopes his story will save lives by encouraging drivers to pay attention and slow down, especially when encountering highway work zones.

Snapping Selfies With Baby Bob at the Mall

We invite you to take a “selfie” with mascot Baby Barrel Bob at the Columbia Mall from March 23-29.

Baby Barrel Bob's appearance at the mall is part of MoDOT's campaign to help raise awareness for work zone safety by reminding motorists to "protect your selfie" and others by avoiding distracted driving.

Baby Bob is stationed near the children's play area inside the Columbia Mall at 2300 Bernadette Drive in Columbia. We encourage you to post your "selfie" with Bob on Facebook and tag "MoDOT Central Missouri District" to help remind motorists to drive safely through highway work zones. You can also tweet your "selfie" with Bob on Twitter to @MoDOT_Central with the hashtag "#ProtectYourSelfie."

If you're unable to make it to the Columbia Mall, MoDOT welcomes "selfies" that promote safe driving, such as buckling up, but reminds you never to take photos while driving. Selfies can be e-mailed to CDCR@modot.mo.gov, tagged to MoDOT Central Missouri District on Facebook or hashtagged #ProtectYourSelfie for use on the district's social media pages.

For more information on work zone awareness, including videos, games and driving tips, visit www.modot.org/workzones. In addition, Barrel Bob can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MOBarrelBob>.



Anglen Helps Motorist During Snow Storm

Aaron Anglen, a Senior Historic Preservation Specialist, was plowing snow for the Central District on Feb. 20 when he noticed a van stuck on the wrong side of Route 163 near Rock Bridge State Park.

Rebecca Porath, a customer from Columbia, had been driving that evening and her van hit an icy patch going downhill and slid into the opposite lane.

"I couldn't move the van for fear that I would slide off the hill and into a steep roadside ditch," she said.

Anglen pulled over and began to assist a grateful Porath.

"Aaron arrived in a salt truck," said Porath, "and in treacherous and very slippery conditions, he put salt into his own lunch cooler and sprinkled it all around my vehicle and the vehicles stuck behind me. I was then able to get back on the road and follow his salt truck home after that."

Porath wanted to send out her thanks to Aaron for getting her out of what she called, "a terrifying experience."

"It was a good lesson to pay attention to the weather forecast," said Porath. "Thank goodness Aaron was there to help. I am very appreciative of his efforts."



Aaron Anglen

Shout Out to Barrel Bob's District Staff

We'd like to send out a special thanks this week to the hard-working men and women who take care of MoDOT's mascot Barrel Bob in the Central District!

Meet the Barrel Bob bunch:

District General Services Manager Coleen Welter is the coordinator for Barrel Bob. If Bob needs to hit the road, she makes sure of the who's, what's,

when's, where's and how's.

Senior Equipment Technician Allen Kliethermes makes sure that repairs are made to Barrel Bob and that he's looks as good as a 12-foot orange guy can possibly look.

Meanwhile, Senior Supply Agents Alvin Wolfe, Keith Jacobsen and Equipment Technician Rodney Colbert, work with our maintenance staff across the Central District to make sure that Bob is dressed to the nines, buckled up, strapped down and is chauffeured wherever he needs to go.

That can be quite the job. Because our man Bob is seriously in demand. The Big Guy has quite the travel itinerary. One week he's living it up in Rolla, the next he's hanging out in Columbia and then the following week he's chillin' at the Lake of the Ozarks. And it's the hard-working staff that makes Bob's appearances possible.

Thank you once again for everything that is done behind the scenes to make sure Bob shows up on time and looks like a million bucks.

Keep up the good work!



Work Zone Awareness Week



Jefferson City Senior Maintenance Worker Scott Campbell (right) is interviewed by an ABC 17 television reporter during MoDOT's Work Zone Awareness Week Kickoff event on March 23 in Jefferson City.



Barrel Bob poses near a vehicle equipped with a Truck Mounted Attenuator during MoDOT's Work Zone Awareness Week Kickoff event on March 23.

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5K Run Kicks Off Work Zone Awareness Week

MoDOT employees, along with their families and friends, participated in a 5K run on March 21 in Chesterfield. The second annual 5K run is to create awareness of workers in work zones and to honor workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This event kicked off Work Zone Awareness Week, which was March 23 - 27.



Fleet Feet representative helps participants stretch before the 5K begins.



Participants jog on South Outer Forty in Chesterfield as part of the 5K run.



After the run, participants enjoy refreshments provided by corporate and private sponsors.



Holly Lewis (in gray) provides face painting for children at the event.



Some participants take pictures in front of the Transportation Management Center with memorials that represent fallen workers within the St. Louis district.



The top finalists of their age groups line up in a picture with Mark Fresen (sitting). Fresen is a former MoDOT employee who was injured while working in a work zone.

Missouri & Illinois Collaborate to Promote Work Zone Safety Message



District Engineer Greg Horn reminds motorists of the importance of paying attention in work zones on March 23 at the Work Zone Awareness Week press conference. The event included representatives from IDOT, Law Enforcement and construction contractors.

Officials in two states joined together with law enforcement and construction contractors to remind drivers of a simple message: Pay attention or pay the price.

Missouri and Illinois departments of transportation, as well as leaders from St. Louis County, shared that message with the background of construction on a project that impacts the region – ongoing ramp construction for the Congressman William “Bill” Clay Sr. (Poplar Street Bridge) between St. Clair County Illinois and St. Louis.

The joint press conference was held on March 23, the first day of National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week. In the background sat a crushed truck mounted attenuator damaged by an inattentive driver and the flashing lights of an undamaged one. State and local official emphatically urged drivers to slow down and pay attention in work zones. Law enforcement officials provided a more stern caution, warning of the penalties for speeding in work zones, or for injuring or killing a worker in a work zone.

“As we work out on the roads to make them safer for drivers, we need drivers to watch out for us. We are all in this together,” said Gregory Horn, MoDOT St. Louis district engineer.

Mechanic’s Commitment to Education Lands Safety Recognition

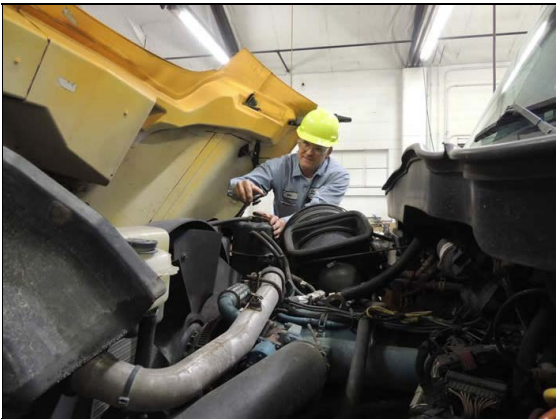
Safety first is a common phrase and one not taken lightly here at MoDOT. For Daniel Deters, senior equipment technician, just saying it is not enough. He takes the extra step to educate employees daily on how to recognize and avoid potential injuries. His dedication to the safety of his co-workers has earned him safety recognition for February.

Deters was nominated by Cortez Frank, Hampton bridge maintenance crew leader.

Last month while Frank was operating a tow plow truck, he heard a hissing sound that he believed to be an indication of a ruptured hydraulic line. Deters was the mechanic on duty and came right out to inspect the truck.

Deters not only confirmed and fixed the hydraulic line, he also took out the time to educate Frank on the dangers of hydraulics.

“While fixing my truck, Dan took the time out to explain that I should never put my hand on a cracked hydraulic line because they can release stored energy. He also went into detail about being safe while working with hydraulics and the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) that should be worn. He went above and beyond and that is why I nominated him,” said Frank.



Dan Deters, St. Louis mechanic, checks the oil on a MoDOT maintenance truck. Deters explains the safety benefits of keeping the maintenance of the trucks up to date.

In addition to the recognition, Deters will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and a Safety Employee of the Month certificate.

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager
St. Louis District

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Southwest District Hosts Work Zone Awareness Event

by David Mitchell

Many MoDOT maintenance workers have harrowing stories of distracted drivers crashing into or narrowly missing work zones along Missouri highways.



Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Charles Wilson recounts to a reporter his story of a motorist crashing into the back of his truck in a work zone, during the Southwest District's kickoff of National Work Zone Awareness Week. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Charles Wilson has one of those stories.

Last year, he was part of a crew flushing a bridge on Route 249 south of Route 66 in Joplin.

He was driving the last truck behind the bridge cleaning crew, straddling the yellow line in the left lane.

"A semi was behind me and suddenly pulled over into the driving lane," said Wilson.

The driver behind the semi didn't see Wilson until the last minute, over-corrected and lost control of her car hitting the right rear of Wilson's truck mounted attenuator (TMA).

"Her nerves were shot. She was freaking out," Wilson said.

An ambulance took her to the hospital and Wilson learned later she was okay.

"If she'd hit me square in the back," said Wilson, "she'd have been seriously hurt."

The Southwest District took part in the kickoff of National Work Zone Awareness Week March 24 by hosting local media to help get the safety message out.

District leaders and employees were available to urge motorists to drive safely through MoDOT work zones this construction season.

District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell said there are too many crashes resulting in injury and even death.

"We know our work zones can create challenges for motorists," said Campbell. "We are committed to ensuring that we keep our customers and our workers safe."

Seven people were killed in work zone crashes in Missouri in 2014 and eight the year before that.

Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker urged drivers to slow down and pay attention when traveling through work zones.

He reminded reporters Missouri's "Slow Down and Move Over" law includes MoDOT vehicles parked with amber and white lights flashing.



District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell (at podium), Assistant District Maintenance Engineer Bob Becker (orange shirt) along with district maintenance workers, meet local media to kick off National Work Zone Awareness Week. (Photo/David Mitchell)

“Motorists are required to slow down and change lanes when approaching MoDOT vehicles,” just as they would for law enforcement or emergency responders said Becker.”

The bottom line message was for drivers to pay attention in work zones and to use tools like MoDOT’s Traveler Information Map and social media sites to stay informed about where crews are working.

Southwest District at Work



EXPLAINING THE PROJECT – Transportation Project Designer Patrick Whitaker talks about the Crossroads Interchange project under construction in Jasper County at a public meeting in Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)



ROASTED – State Senator Jay Wasson of Nixa (at podium) skewers Assistant Engineer Dan Salisbury before presenting him with a Senate proclamation recognizing Salisbury. He is retiring from MoDOT after nearly 38 years of service. (Photo/David Mitchell)

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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Employees, Customers Encouraged to Take Part in NWZAW

With National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) in full swing, the Southeast District planned a number of ways for employees and customers to participate. The events serve as a way to celebrate safety successes with fellow employees, as well as remind the public that another maintenance and construction season is ahead.

The week kicked-off with outreach to the district’s local media outlets. Maintenance Supervisor Nathan Hunt interviewed with KFVS12 on Monday and stressed that motorists need to pay attention while driving. With winter operations coming to an end, drivers can expect to encounter various types of work zones. Pothole repair, debris removal, mowing and striping operations are getting underway. For example, work zones can be moving operations, such as striping, patching or mowing. They can also be short term, temporary lane closures to make quick repairs or remove debris from the roadway.



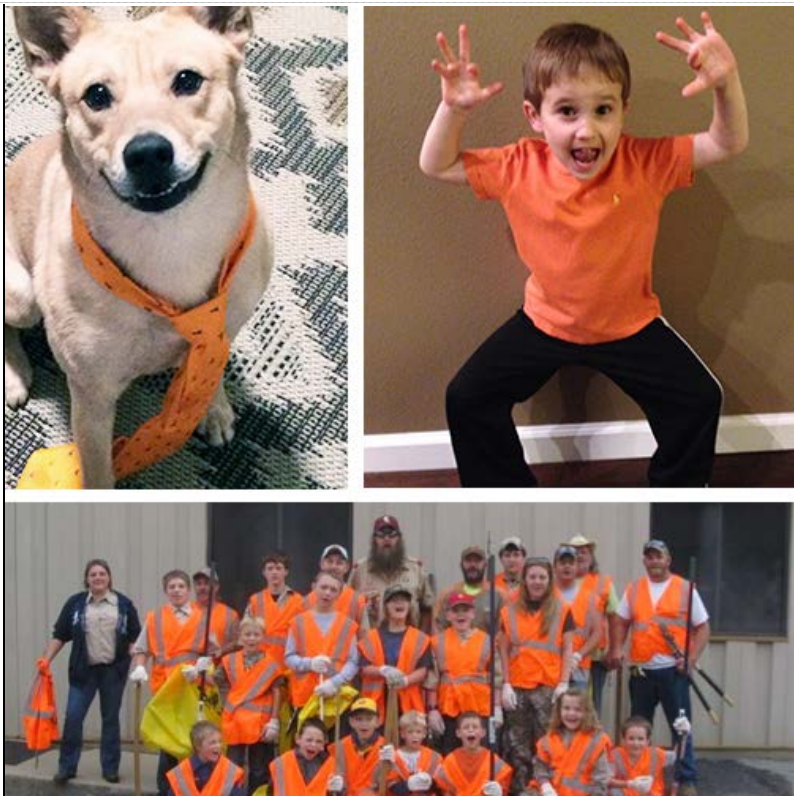
Click the image above to watch a clip from Maintenance Supervisor Nathan Hunt's interview with KFVS12.

On Tuesday, the events took a more internal focus with employees encouraged to share lunch and discuss safety. A potluck was held at the District Office in Sikeston, and employees were encouraged to join in by bringing their favorite orange food!

Wednesday's event included holding a safety breakfast in the Regional Office in Willow Springs with Assistant District Engineer Chris Rutledge giving a quick safety talk. In addition, close call stories from employees were shared via Facebook throughout the day. The stories helped provide a personal perspective of what it's like working on Missouri's roadways.

Employees watched the work zone safety edition of Weekly MoDOT Connections on Thursday. This week's information included three riddles in honor of NWZAW!

The release of the Work Zone Awareness Wall of Fame will conclude the events this Friday (March 27). Employees, customers and partners are encouraged to send in their "Orange Out" photos throughout the week. If you have a photo of



The Southeast District has received several great additions to the Work Zone Awareness Wall of Fame. There is still time to send your photos to modot.southeast@gmail.com!

yourself, pet or child sporting orange, please send it to modot.southeast@gmail.com by 2 p.m. Friday.

Southeast District Discusses Importance of Diversity and Inclusion

The Southeast District held its Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference on March 16, in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Many Southeast District employees attended the training. Dr. Tim Crowley and Ashley Gray spoke about diversity and inclusion to the group.

Crowley is the CIO and founder of CROWLEY LEADERSHIP, Inc. He is a motivational speaker, corporate trainer and business leader. With over 1,700 presentations under his belt, Dr. Crowley spoke to the group about how to “Enjoy Life – This is not a dress rehearsal!” He also talked about different personality types and how to work with others who may not accomplish tasks in the same way as others.

Gray, Coordinator of Student Involvement and Leadership for Diversity and Inclusion at Washington University in St. Louis, discussed “The Mosaic Project.” She explained that every person has a unique background and to celebrate and learn about those differences.



The Southeast District held its Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference March 16, in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Rudy Nickens, MoDOT’s Equal Opportunity and Diversity Director, closed the day by encouraging those in attendance to use the information learned to better understand the many differences that make everyone unique.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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